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HELMS ANNOUNCES TWO FIRE SAFETY RULEMAKING PROPOSALS

Federal Aviation Administrator J. Lynn Helms last week said the agency will issue two rulemaking proposals within the next 30 days for the installation of fire-resistant seat cushions and cabin aisle emergency lights. Announcement and demonstration of these and other FAA safety programs were made at a news media briefing last Tuesday at FAA's Technical Center near Atlantic City, N.J.

Installation of the fire-resistant seat materials will cost carriers approximately $3 to $7 per seat, Helms said, in addition to increasing annual aircraft operating costs because of the additional weight. Helms said he expects resistance to the proposal from carriers but only with reference to the time schedule. The proposed installation of cabin emergency lights along the aisles will aid evacuation of smoke-filled aircraft, Helms said. One FAA study found that occupants could evacuate a smoke-filled aircraft 20 percent more quickly when lights were mounted on the sides of seat bottoms illuminating the aisle and floor.

Helms also outlined other fire and crash safety rulemaking proposals the agency will soon issue NPRMs on: installation of improved cargo compartment fire protection systems and liner materials; installation of collapsible, energy-absorbing aircraft seats; use of fire-retardant materials on cabin walls, ceilings and storage compartments; and, use of anti-misting fuel additives which suppress the tendency of the fuel to form fine mists, making ignition and propagation difficult. Helms said most of these safety proposals "will be backfitted for older aircraft," with the exception of the anti-misting fuel additives which is still in the research stage.

An FAA spokesman said these safety proposals are aimed primarily at operators of large commercial aircraft, but industry officials predict that commuters and general aviation may feel the trickle down effect of the rules. Helms said it will probably take three years to put the fire-resistant seat cushion and cabin aisle lighting requirements into effect.

Helms said these safety improvements "will constitute the most dramatic single step forward in airplane safety in a quarter century." FAA's safety programs "are on schedule," he said, and were not prompted by the recent fire aboard an Air Canada DC-9 *(BA, June 6/178)*. Helms also credited himself with "developing an overall system test program" and said he was "not accountable" for the actions of former FAA administrators.

TWO KILLED IN GROUND COLLISION AT HOUSTON HOBBY

Two persons aboard an AA-5 trainer were killed last week when an HS125 business jet taking off from Houston's Hobby Airport on a training flight went out of control and crashed into the smaller aircraft. The accident occurred just after the instructor aboard the HS125 had retarded the throttle on the No. 1 engine as the jet reached V_1.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators told *BA* last week that the 125 was owned by Erasmus Inc., a Houston-based holding company. One of the company's co-pilots was in the process of obtaining a type rating on the aircraft and was preparing to take off from Hobby for a flight to Beaumont where a series of touch-and-go landings was planned. The investigator said the instructor had briefed the pilot that he planned to retard the throttle on the No. 1 engine at V_1.

(Continued on the following page)

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1a.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND

Status as of April 30

		Current Month	Fiscal Year to Date
I.	BALANCE - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	$ 4,611,129,010.85	$ 3,881,478,472.29
II.	RECEIPTS:		
A.	Excise Taxes (Transferred from General Fund):		
	1. Any liquid fuel other than gasoline	6,900,000.00	43,485,738.00
	2. Tires used on aircraft	114,000.00	557,000.00
	3. Tubes used on aircraft	12,000.00	67,000.00
	4. Gasoline:		
	a. Commercial 9 cents tax	190,000.00	790,000.00
	b. Non-commercial 9 cents tax	1,756,000.00	7,790,000.00
	c. Non-commercial 5 cents tax	1,654,000.00	14,502,452.00
	5. Transportation by air, seats, berths, etc.	158,000,000.00	1,079,340,000.00
	6. Use of international travel facilities	6,000,000.00	38,457,646.00
	7. Transportation of property and cargo	9,000,000.00	53,737,419.00
	8. Use of civil aircraft	-0-	-0-
	Total Tax Receipts	183,626,000.00	1,238,727,255.00
B.	Less Reimbursement to General Fund-Refund of Taxes and Estimated Tax Credits:		
	1. Commercial aviation gasoline	-0-	-0-
	2. Non-commercial gasoline	-0-	-0-
	3. Civil aircraft	-0-	77,509.00
	4. Any liquid fuel other than gasoline	-0-	612.00
	5. Gasoline - Retailer's tax	-0-	182.00
	6. Airline Ticket Refund	-0-	-0-
	7. Gasoline - Manufacturers Tax	-0-	-0-
	Total Reimbursement for Tax Refunds	-0-	78,303.00
	Net Tax Receipts	183,626,000.00	1,238,648,952.00
C.	Federal Payments	-0-	-0-
D.	Transfers from the General Fund	-0-	-0-
E.	Interest on Investments	267,779.15	241,735,836.05
	Net Receipts	183,893,779.15	1,480,384,788.05
III.	EXPENDITURES:		
A.	Federal Aviation Administration:		
	1. Operations	(909.84)	219,995,341.21
	2. Grants-in-Aid for Airports	20,531,760.25	209,685,573.92
	3. Facilities and Equipment	15,151,591.94	142,414,873.27
	4. Research, Engineering and Development	9,322,235.39	39,736,269.68
B.	Aviation Advisory Commission-Salaries & Expense	-0-	-0-
C.	Interest on Refunds of Taxes	-0-	13,090.00
	Total Expenditures	45,004,677.74	611,845,148.08
IV.	BALANCE-END OF PERIOD	4,750,018,112.26	4,750,018,112.26

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

ASSETS:		
Undisbursed Balances:		
Airport and Airway Trust Fund (20X8103)	$ 194.75	
Operations	6,518.71	
Grants-in-Aid for Airports	26,653,270.64	
Facilities and Equipment	13,229,400.17	
Research, Engineering and Development	4,281,727.99	
Aviation Advisory Commission-Salaries and Expenses	-0-	$ 44,171,112.26
INVESTMENTS:		
U.S. TREASURY CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS:		
10-7/8% maturing June 30, 1983	115,366,000.00	
11-7/8% maturing June 30, 1983	256,102,000.00	
11-1/4% maturing June 30, 1983	116,609,000.00	
11-1/2% maturing June 30, 1983	368,134,000.00	
11-3/4% maturing June 30, 1983	89,426,000.00	
12-3/8% maturing June 30, 1983	3,757,710,000.00	
12-7/8% maturing June 30, 1983	2,500,000.00	4,705,847,000.00
Total Assets		4,750,018,112.26
LIABILITIES:		-0-
EQUITY:		
Excess Assets over Liabilities		$ 4,750,018,112.26
Total Liabilities and Equity		4,750,018,112.26

Treasury Department Chart